

## **Student Stories Project: Beverly Haro**

Audio version available at: <http://www.alumni.indiana.edu/profiles/students/haro.shtml>

**[IU fight song]**

**Welcome to the Indiana University Student Stories Project, a production of the IU Alumni Association. I am your host, Alana Salata. In this series, you'll get an insight into what it takes to be a student leader here on the Bloomington campus, from the perks –**

*“When we did a Katrina event, people – a group of people that pulled together an organization that could benefit something so great – it was amazing to see.”*

**– to the hard work –**

*“... Pushing me a lot more, it's – my initiative's gone way up, especially with so much on my plate right now.”*

**– to the memories that will last a lifetime.**

*“I was in a photo op with coach Hep...”*

*“... ten-year reunion was just, it was a lot of fun. It was great to see 30-plus guys come back for the show.”*

**Join me on this journey through the lives of IU student leaders.**

**[IU fight song]**

**SALATA: Today we're speaking with Beverly Haro of the Latinos Unidos of Indiana University.**

HARO: Hi, my name is Beverly Haro. I am a sophomore majoring in international studies. I'm from Merrillville, Indiana – that's in northwest Indiana. I am social chair for LUIU, which is Latinos Unidos of Indiana University. I'm planning to study abroad in Argentina, and I'm planning a trip to Brazil this summer to spread literacy to the poorest parts of Brazil.

**Why did you choose to attend IU?**

I applied for the Groups program when I was in high school, and that's a program that really tries to target students who are first-generation or need a lot of financial aid to get into college, and they really help pay for your first year and really get you on your feet – you take summer classes – and I thought this was a great opportunity because a lot of

people, like, they don't know what to expect when they go on to college and this organization really did help me just get on my feet. I didn't apply to any other university. Well, at first I wanted to go to Purdue, but I didn't know why – but when I got into the Groups program and started attending classes at IU, I absolutely loved it and wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

**Tell me about a meaningful or enjoyable experience you've had at IU.**

The most meaningful experience I've had is just interacting with all the different kinds of people. I wouldn't have this opportunity anywhere else, because college just puts so many different people together in one place. You just get to learn about everybody's experiences, different religious backgrounds. I think that's very important in life because you have to learn to interact with a whole bunch of different people because the whole world is not one race or one religion, so getting to get used to those kinds of people will definitely prepare you for the outside world and the workplace.

**What advice would you give to incoming freshmen and other students just starting out at IU?**

At least your first year, really focus on your academics. Try to really get used to college life and really focus on your time-management skills. If you want to get involved, don't try taking leadership positions just yet – just try to ease yourself into the whole culture of being a student. And then, once you get into your second year, really start trying to take on those leadership roles and becoming more involved.

**How did you find out about LUIU, and why did you decide to become a member?**

I found out about LUIU through the La Casa e-mail listserv, because La Casa is the Latino culture center here on campus. So I started going there and I heard about LUIU. It's basically the main organization for Latino students on campus. I started attending the meetings, and I really liked it, I liked what they did – they put on a lot of social events and really made IU feel like home for Latinos. This year I applied for a leadership position, and I got social chair. I love it. I love what we're doing.

**Tell me about an LUIU event or program that you were involved in that you are particularly proud of.**

The biggest program we've put on was the Festival Latino at the beginning of the fall semester. It was a collaboration with LEC – Latino Enhancement Cooperative – and La Casa, the Latino culture center. It's the biggest event because we all – a whole bunch of organizations, Latino organizations – come together, and we basically get our voices heard. It's a huge event. We have people of all different races and backgrounds come and visit, and they can have a good time. We have booths, we have games, we have educational booths that people can learn about the Latino culture – it's just a very good program. We have it every year, so you should look out for it next year!

**How have your leadership skills developed over the course of your participation in LUIU?**

In high school I didn't have the best leadership skills. I was part of organizations. I didn't really know how to use the skills I had and really put forth a lot of effort to move the organization forward. And now, being in LUIU and becoming social chair, it has helped me a lot to communicate better with other organizations, just communicate among other Latinos, other people in general. I was also part of LeaderShape. This program is amazing. It helped so many different leadership skills, leadership skills you didn't even think existed. You got to interact with a lot of different people. You just learned so much. I really appreciate the IU alumni here, especially the Latino alumni because I won a scholarship through them – it was a merit scholarship through the IU Latino Alumni Association, and I'm very grateful for that. Again, in LeaderShape, IU alumni were very supportive in creating our future leaders.

**Are you part of any other organizations?**

Yes. I'm a part of MORE, which is Multicultural Outreach Recruitment Educators. I'm also part of AIESEC. That is an international and diversity group. I really, really like AIESEC. It offers opportunities to study abroad and work abroad as well. Social Justice League is also a new organization that just started on this campus, and I'm also a part of the La Casa LGSA mentor program, which helps graduate students and undergraduate students create relationships that would help them graduate from college.

**What are your future goals, and how do you think IU has helped prepare you to meet those goals?**

My future goals are to – I guess recent future goals are to study abroad in Argentina, but then after that I want to go to the Peace Corps for two years, and go to law school. IU has really, really helped me, because I would have never even considered Peace Corps if I didn't hear about the meetings that people are always talking about. Also, the mentor program I'm involved with. My mentor, she's in law school right now, and she has been such a big help. I'm going to start attending classes in law school to see even if I really like them, and I don't think I would have had this opportunity anywhere else.

**What will you miss the most when you graduate?**

I'm going to miss, well, definitely my friends. These friends that I've made here are the ones that are going to be with me forever. These are friends for life. I'm going to miss just being so involved all the time with such different organizations and such a diverse group of people. I don't know, it's just – I'm going to miss everything.

**We've been talking with Beverly Haro of the Latinos Unidos of Indiana University.**

**[IU fight song]**

**This series was produced by the Indiana University Alumni Association, with special thanks to the IU Marching Hundred and director Dave Woodley. I'm Alana Salata.**

**[IU fight song]**